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## Conclusion

The *Child Care Facility Planning Manual for Washington State* has been developed to help you with both the big picture and small details involved in developing a child care center. Though we have attempted to be comprehensive, in many ways this manual will only serve as a starting point for your journey. We have designed it to be an ongoing reference, but acknowledge that from time to time there will no doubt be revisions and changes to the regulations and requirements set by the State of Washington and the early childhood profession's own accreditation criteria. There are many additional resources, some of which are referenced here, and others that you will discover on your own.

Opening a child care or school age program is not an activity to be undertaken by the faint of heart, but it is rewarding, meaningful work. The need for additional high quality child care services for children of all ages is tremendous. As you look through the photographs in this manual we hope you draw inspiration from others who have been doing this work. As you see the young faces featured, remember that your work will enhance the caretaking and education of our next generation.

We hope you find courage, patience, and mentors as you travel this road. It will no doubt be full of challenges and complexity, but with your vision at the center of your planning and decision-making, you can stay focused and accomplish a great deal. You have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the children and families in your community.

**"We are all here for a spell, get all the good laughs you can."**

- Will Rogers

